

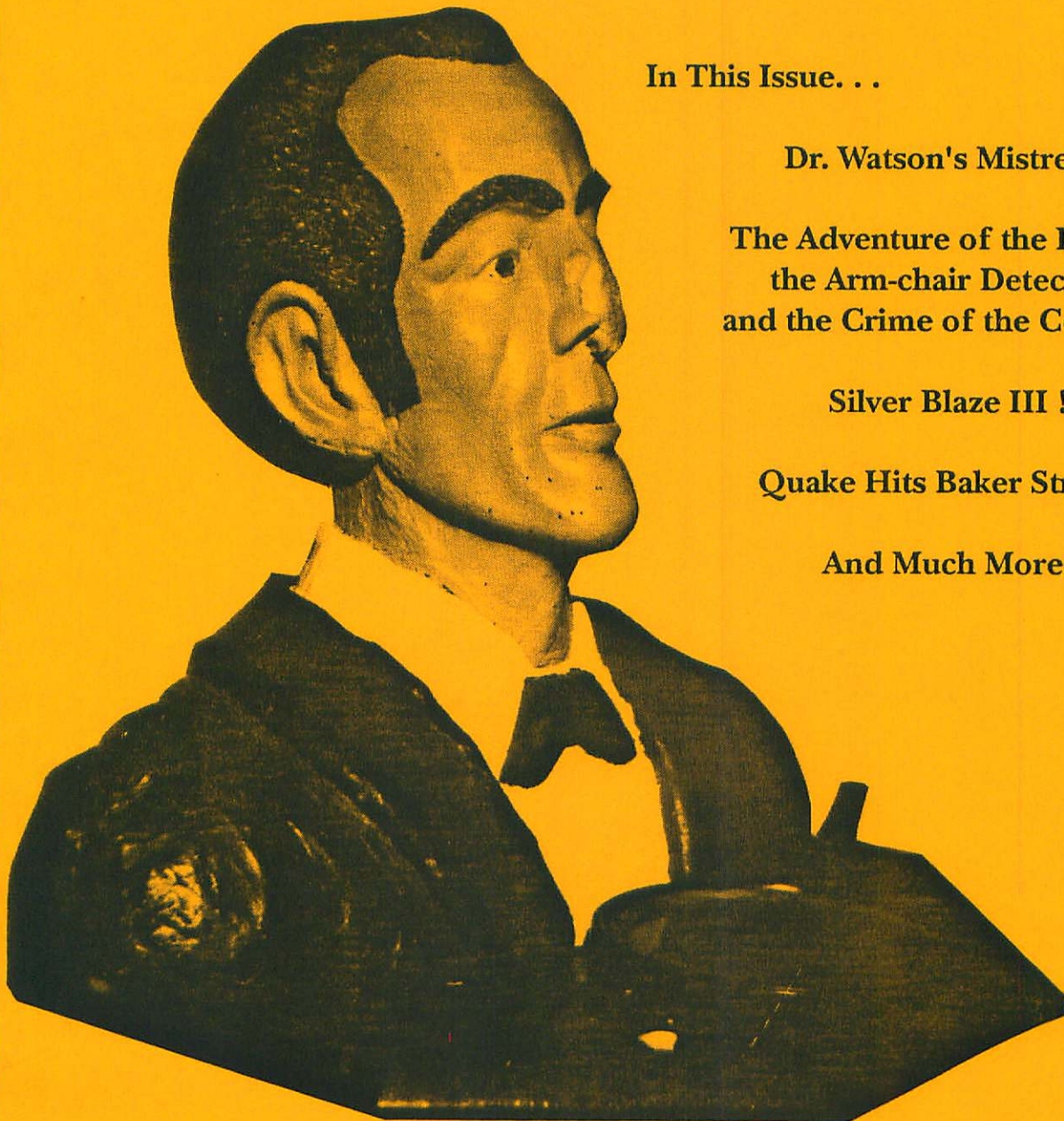
Vol. 8 No. 2



December 1989

A PUBLICATION OF THE SCOWRERS & MOLLY MAGUIRES OF SAN FRANCISCO

VERMISSA DAILY HERALD



In This Issue. . .

Dr. Watson's Mistress !

**The Adventure of the Doctor,
the Arm-chair Detective,
and the Crime of the Century !**

Silver Blaze III !

Quake Hits Baker Street !

And Much More.

*"Its nasal structure had been reshaped as if
its owner had spent too many years as a pugilist."*

Quake Hits Baker Street

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A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T S

Above all, we thank DOVER PRESS for its superb series of illustrative source books, with particular attention to the following:

MEN, edited by Jim Harter

WOMEN, edited by Jim Harter

TRANSPORTATION, edited by Jim Harter

GOODS AND MERCHANDISE, edited by William Rowe

VICTORIAN SPOT ILLUSTRATIONS, edited by Carol Grafton

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THE STAFF OF THE VERMISSA DAILY HERALD

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A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

Sherlock Holmes, the greatest detective and perhaps the best and wisest man whom the English-speaking world has ever known, was born in 1854. He practiced as a private enquiry agent in London (chiefly at the immortal address of 221B Baker Street) from 1877 to 1891, when he was believed to have perished in the act of destroying the arch-criminal Professor Moriarty. In the third year he returned from the dead and resumed active practice until his retirement in 1903. Since that time he has devoted himself to beekeeping in the Sussex Downs (emerging from retirement to save the British Empire in 1914), and may, since his obituary has never been published, be still alive at an advanced age.

The world-famous accounts of his cases, from "A Study in Scarlet" (1887) to "The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes" (1927), were written chiefly by his friend and associate Dr. John Hamish Watson (two accounts are by Holmes himself and two by questionable hands). Watson's skillful literary agent was his fellow physician Arthur Conan Doyle, himself a writer of some reputation, especially as a historical novelist. The assertion by the agent's sons that their father "wrote" the cases and even that he "created" the character of Holmes is patently absurd.

This creed is the firm belief of most rational men, but in particular, it is the devout doctrine of:

THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS

—Anthony Boucher
1911-1968
Founding Bodymaster
The Scowrsers &
Molly Maguires

* * * * *

WHO ARE THE IRREGULARS?

The original Baker Street Irregulars were a band of street urchins employed by Sherlock Holmes as assistants. Their namesakes today are an informal association of admirers of Holmes, devoted to the enjoyment and study of the Holmesian Canon, to happy conviviality, and to the publication of a quarterly journal of *Holmesiana* and so many other books and pamphlets that it has been remarked, "Never has so much been written by so many for so few."

The present Irregulars came into being in 1934, under the tutelage of the late Christopher Morley, who was the organization's first and only Gasogene (or chairman), ably abetted by bookman Vincent Starrett and news analyst Elmer Davis. The original group of seven members has spread until there are at least a score of scion societies in the United States - with such names as "The Speckled Band" (Boston), "The Hounds of the Baskerville (sic)" (Chicago), "The Brothers Three" (Moriarty, New Mexico) - and many loosely affiliated groups abroad, notably in London, Tokyo and Copenhagen.

Irregulars come from all branches of life and range from librarians to astronauts.

* * * * *



**THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA
IRREGULARS**

The Bay Area scion (chapter) of the B.S.I., known as "The Scowrsers (after a secret society of terrorists in "The Valley of Fear") and Molly Maguires" of San Francisco, was founded in 1944 by bookmen Joseph Henry Jackson and Anthony Boucher. This group meets irregularly (approximately three times a year) for dinner, discussion, the reading of papers and frequent toasts. The membership includes such diverse occupations as journalist, bank vice-president, travel planner, broker, photographer, writer, and numerous doctors, lawyers, teachers, office workers and domestic scientists.

Your interest in Sherlock Holmes is the principal requirement for membership in this group. If you would like to obtain more information regarding membership in The Scowrsers & Molly Maguires please send your inquiry, along with a stamped self-addressed envelope, to:

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**THE VERMISSA DAILY HERALD
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STANGER PINKERTONIZES

SCOWRERS (sl. 17th C., 18th C.) A band of wild and boisterous men who roamed the streets, terrorizing people. The Molly Maguires were so named. The word originates from scower, scowre, to decamp or run away. The v. i. is "to roam noisily about the night, smashing windows, waylaying and beating wayfarers, attacking the watch" (Shadwell, Prior).

Well! I guess that puts us in our place! Wild and boisterous, indeed! I begin to think that Kevin I. Jones, the author of the otherwise admirable Sherlock Holmes Dictionary from which I took the above definition, has fallen prey to Pinkerton propaganda.

Speaking of Pinkerton propaganda, in my position as probably the only Scowrer in the long and proud history of our brotherhood to actually have Pinkertons working for him, I recently fell into possession of a prime piece of Pinkerton propaganda, a recruiting leaflet. "You are wanted by Pinkertons", it states. Well, what else is new? Birdy Edwards aside, they haven't caught us yet. It goes on to say: "Follow in the footsteps of the officers who chased Jesse James, Billy the Kid, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, and many others". Notice something funny about that? If you aren't a Western history buff, I'll clue you in: Jesse James was shot by one of his own henchmen; Billy the Kid was shot



by Sheriff Pat Garrett; and Butch and Sundance escaped to South America and later re-entered the U.S. under assumed names and lived out fairly peaceful lives. The movie didn't quite get that right. The Pinkertons did, indeed, chase them, but they didn't manage to catch any of them! Well, they remain eminently confusable.

Ron continues to work away at solving the "Adventure of the Doyle Photographic Plate". The skein grows ever more tangled and ever more fascinating. Ph.D.'s have been awarded for less intensive research. Personally, I await the end of the case with a great deal of anticipation. Is it a long lost photograph of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, or not? If it is, Jung's theory of synchronicity is working overtime. A set of glass plate negatives falls into the hands of one of the very few people who knows how to handle them. Coincidentally, he is a Sherlockian and one of the plates appears to be of Conan Doyle. The odds on all this happening must be incredible.

Well, enough editorializing. I think I'll get out and roam around noisily for awhile, break a few windows, assault the watch (Rolex?) — that sort of thing. After all, we Scowrers have a reputation to uphold.

* * * * *

WINNER OF THE
1989 DEAN DICKENSHEET AWARD

DR. WATSON'S MISTRESS

A Story for which
the World is not yet Prepared

by
Marilyn MacGregor



Dr. John H. Watson, late of the Army Medical Department, could resist neither women nor mysteries. He succumbed to both on the morning of March 4, 1881, the day he embarked on the adventure of **A STUDY IN SCARLET** and was seduced by the world's only consulting detective — Violet Irene Holmes.

How did it happen? To begin with, Miss Holmes could hardly pursue her calling hampered by the sweeping skirts of Victorian fashion or confined within the boundaries of behavior then imposed on young ladies. She therefore abandoned polite society, put on trousers, and adopted the name "Sherlock".

Violet shared rooms with Dr. Watson but invariably break-fasted alone and went out before he rose. Invariably, that is, until that morning when she permitted him to discover her still at breakfast in her dressing gown. Watson, a man with an experience of women extending over many nations and three separate continents, did not hesitate, although he tells us that the morning's exertions were too much for his weak health and that he was tired out in the afternoon.

John Watson and Violet Holmes shared their breakfasts, their rooms, and what Watson described as a close intimacy for several years, until Watson, who was especially susceptible to delicately feminine blue-eyed blondes, fell blithely victim to Mary Morstan.

As that affair progressed, Violet maintained a dignified facade of

impenetrable reserve, but as Watson repeatedly trotted 'round to Camberwell, Mrs. Hudson reported that she heard Miss Holmes walking up and down, up and down, talking to herself, muttering, finally slamming off to her room. Poor Violet's moodiness may have led her to inquire into Dr. Freud's as yet fragmentary work, for on one occasion she suggested impatiently to Watson, "try a little analysis yourself". Later, she insisted that Athelney Jones stay for a dinner of oysters and grouse, using the opportunity to reproach Watson, "You have never yet recognized my merits as a housekeeper."

Watson, doing his best to maintain a balance between the two women, admits to being somewhat uneasy with the arrangement. At least once Mary Morstan thought him cold and distant. He says she little guessed the struggle within his breast. Nevertheless, although he tells us, "I have marvelled at it since", John Watson deserted his Violet for a wife.

For her part, Violet declared that she would never marry. She said, "There are women in whom the love of a lover extinguishes all other loves." But Watson was not to be lost for long: on the night of March 20, 1888, while passing that well-remembered door in Baker Street, he was seized with a keen desire to see Violet Holmes again. Her manner was not effusive, but Watson could tell she was

glad to see him. The following night Watson again slept at Baker Street.

So much for the chronological details: can it really be that Holmes is a woman? Is it possible that dedicated Sherlockians have so long and so consistently misread the Sacred Writings? Could that eminent authority confuse Watson's sex and miss the real point by so narrow a margin? Surely there must be convincing evidence in the Canon indicating a masculine Holmes.

It is a fact that a Victorian gentleman belonged to a club. Watson did, Colonel Moran did, Henry Baker did, even Violet's unsociable elder brother Mycroft did. A gentleman patronized a tailor and a barber. It is certain that Violet did none of these, nor would she permit any doctor other than Watson to examine her.

It is recorded that Violet smoked tobacco, but while smoking is neither a purely masculine nor a feminine habit, such emphasis is given to her use of strong tobacco in such quantity that we come to wonder if she smoked at all; the whole thing looks like overstatement. Certainly no discriminating smoker would resort to dried-out, tar-soaked dottles except to underscore his masculinity. In point of fact, experienced smokers leave little or no dottle; they smoke each pipeful completely through. Nor would a criminal expert of standing smoke such inordinate quantities of strong tobacco as to blunt his sense of smell and so jeopardize his ability to discriminate among seventy-five perfumes, to identify the faint smell of white jessamine on Beryl Stapleton's letter, to detect the traces of poison fumes on Enoch Drebber's corpse, or to pick up the coffee aroma from a particular piece of brown wrapping paper.

We all know beyond any question that one who regularly and frequently shaves his face is no woman. Despite a stoutly held contrary opinion, Watson definitely was a man, a man whose documented habits included a preference for shaving in or out of daylight; and although Watson

sported a modest mustache, there is not a shred of evidence that Violet grew even a single whisker.

In "His Last Bow", Violet Holmes tugged at what Watson called "that horrible goatee". True, she had previously employed side whiskers that lifted off, as well as a goatee that did the same, and on one occasion she disguised herself as a bearded French workingman. The horrible goatee was stuck on her chin more securely than these others, but clearly it did not grow there, for it did not have to be shaved off; Violet spoke only of cutting her hair, which is quite a different thing.

A superficial reading of Watson's account of the meeting on the moor may lead one to assume that Miss Holmes had shaved, but what Dr. Watson wrote was this: "he had contrived... that his chin should be as smooth and his linen as perfect as if he were in Baker Street." Had Watson, ever the literal reporter, meant to say "clean-shaven", he would have done so. What impressed him about Violet's appearance on this occasion was that despite extended exposure to the damp fog, the driving rains, and the cold biting winds of Dartmoor, her complexion, chin and all, remained as fresh and lovely as ever.

More revealing is the case of "The Adventure of the Dying Detective", where Violet Holmes, over the period of three days, apparently had been reduced to such a sad condition that she was expected to die momentarily. The role she played so convincingly was that of a man far too weak to shave himself. Now, if ever, there would be stubble; yet all Mrs. Hudson saw were the bones sticking out of that face, and all Dr. Watson saw was a hectic flush on those cheeks. Violet said she achieved her ghastly face by three days of absolute fasting, and continued, "For the rest, there is nothing which a sponge may not cure."

It is true that the Canon contains four or five references to Holmes as a boxer, and admittedly a Victorian lady boxer is an

incongruity; but again, Watson chose his words with purpose. He described what Violet did in terms familiar to the British public. Violet Holmes had a useful knowledge of baritsu, the Japanese system of wrestling, and her baritsu master trained her as well in other forms of self defense. She had developed a wicked karate chop, which she used to good advantage in "The Adventure of the Solitary Cyclist". As she described it herself, "it was a straight left against a slogging ruffian... Mr. Woodley went home in a cart". Even today, karate has that effect. No doubt the poker-straightening episode was possible through some similar Japanese discipline.

Occasionally, Watson forgot himself when writing of his beloved. When describing her as "the most perfect reasoning and observing machine that the world has seen", he slipped and added that as a lover she would be in a false position.

Finally, here is unmistakable evidence of Violet's sex: she had a high voice; she spoke sweetly, demurely, in the sweetest of voices; she prattled away, gave a perfect shriek of delight, and she screamed for help rather than shouting, as a man would do. She had a merry laugh, she carolled like a lark, clapped her hands with delight; and she exclaimed, "Isn't it gorgeous!" And Violet Irene was vain; she also flushed with pleasure, got her spirits ruffled, bit her nails, and she

patted old gentlemen comfortingly on the hand.

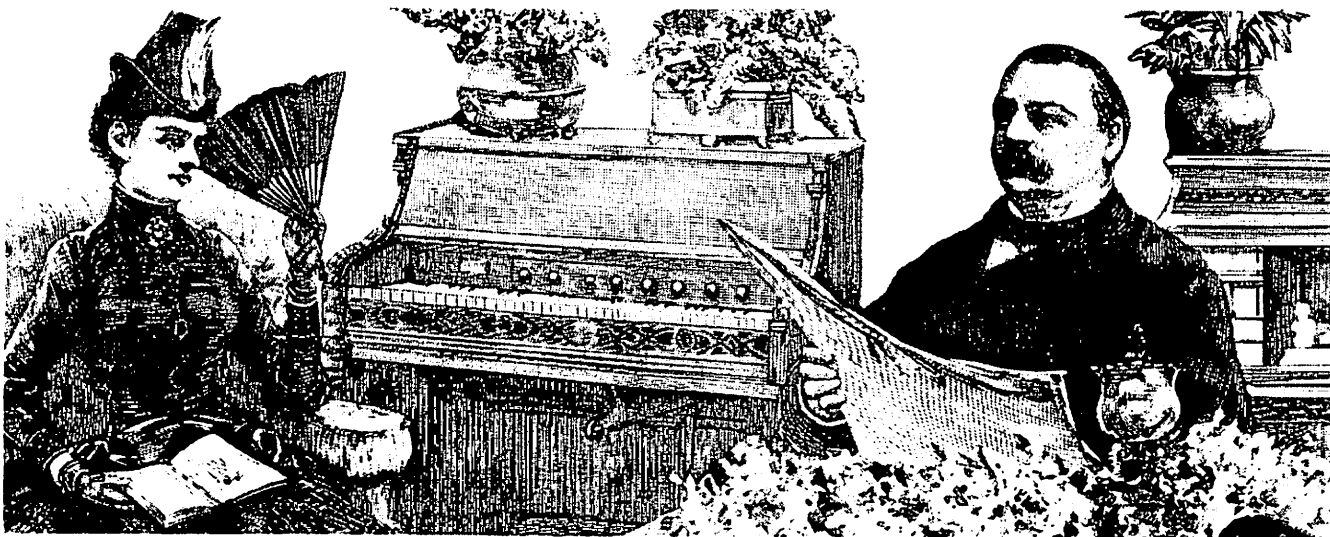
Furthermore, Violet couldn't abide other women, and always referred to Irene Adler as the woman. Was she saying "that woman", or did she acknowledge the qualities they shared? Both could carry off a masculine disguise, both had trained as actresses, both had lovers; and it even is possible that they worked together in blackmailing the King of Bohemia.

There is, too, the small but provocative question of whether Watson, when he first knew Violet, mistook her profession for an older one, since he continually excused himself when male clients arrived.

And finally, did Moriarty lust after Violet Holmes as well as after revenge? Remember Reichenbach, with Violet at bay on the narrow pathway, reading inexorable purpose in Moriarty's grey eyes. The Professor drew no weapon, but he rushed at her and threw his long arms around her.

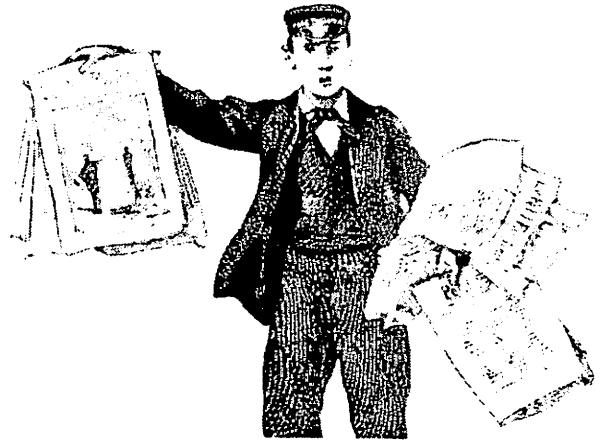
I shall not speculate further, but I do suggest that a re-reading of the Canon will disclose more untold adventures than have been previously imagined. I leave you to this pleasant task, commending to you Violet Irene Holmes, a remarkable Victorian and the best and wisest woman whom I have ever known.

* * * * *



THE ADVENTURE OF THE DOCTOR,
THE ARM-CHAIR DETECTIVE
AND THE CRIME OF THE CENTURY

by
Ronald S. White



"Holmes, I do believe it is time the public knows the truth; I mean, it has been a full hundred years since the last of the Ripper murders."

Holmes peered at me. With a long slow draw on his vile black clay pipe he seemed to consider my statement.

"Perhaps you are right, Watson. It seems that over the years more reputations have been harmed by so many sordid speculations than could have been touched if the truth were known."

"Well then," I said, "who was Jack the Ripper?"

"As usual, Watson, your question is right at the heart of the matter. You ask for a simple response that I cannot provide. No, I have not been sworn to secrecy nor any other such nonsense. The truth is that I do not know the identity of Jack-the-Ripper because I was never involved in the case."

"But Holmes, your name has appeared so often in connection with the Ripper..."

"Quite so. There have even been those that believe my silence on the matter implicates either the Royal house or," Holmes paused, contemplating the smoke rising from the bowl of his pipe. After a moment he continued, "or that I, myself, am guilty of the crimes."

"Preposterous," I ejaculated!

Holmes looked at me and smiled. Then he slowly shook his head.

"No Watson, it is not as 'preposterous' as you would like to believe. In one of your chronicles you remarked, quite

correctly, that I might have made a 'terrible criminal' if I had turned my energies against the law instead of in its defense. (1)"

"But you have devoted your life to solving crime, not creating it."

"The successful detective achieves his goal by being able to think like the criminal he is pursuing. The difference between the two becomes a thin line of morality which may be easily crossed.

"If there were but a small twist to my character then it would be I, and not Moriarty, that would rule London's underworld."

I shook my head and said, "No Holmes, with things as they are, I find it inconceivable that you would be Jack-the-Ripper."

"There we agree. 'With things as they are', I feel safe in eliminating myself from the list of possible suspects."

"Well Holmes, if you have no idea who the Ripper was..."

"I said I did not KNOW his identity. However, I do have my theories."

"Well then, who do you believe was the Ripper?"

For a long moment Holmes looked at me. Then slowly he closed his eyes and

touched his fingertips together forming a familiar steeple.

"Watson, if you would be so kind as to pour another serving of this excellent armagnac, perhaps you and I can solve this little enigma."

"How can I help?"

"Let us begin by eliminating some of the popular suspects."

"Where do we start?"

"Why, at the top, of course, with the Royal House."

"Do you mean the Prince?"

Holmes nodded. "Crown Prince Albert Victor Christian Edward, Duke of Clarence. He was named in an article appearing in The Criminologist in 1970. The article was written by Dr. Thomas Stowell, and purports to derive its solution from the private papers of Sir William Gull, private physician to Queen Victoria.

"Allegedly, the Prince contracted syphilis and, in bouts of madness, he sought to avenge himself on the prostitutes of the East End. Eventually, he was confined and died as a result of the disease, although, officially, his death was due to the flu epidemic of 1892."

I nodded to Holmes. "I had heard the story and although it sounded plausible there never seemed to be any real evidence to substantiate these claims."

Holmes shook his head saying, "there was no 'real evidence' presented because there was no real evidence to be had. If these documents existed they could have been easily authenticated and, probably, would have made interesting reading. However, the originals were never brought forward and so it must be assumed that they do not exist. Be that as it may, let us look at some of the problems with this theory.

"First, the Heir to the throne would never be allowed to roam the streets unattended, and I am sure a royal entourage would be noticed in Whitechapel.

Second, and more important, the Prince's whereabouts are verified for no less than three of the murders. On the 30th of September, 1888, there were two Ripper murders: Elizabeth Stride and Catherine Eddowes. On that date independent sources verify that the Prince was in Scotland shooting game. On the 8th of November, when Mary Kelly was killed, the Prince was in Sandringham, participating in the celebrations of his father's birthday. A few days later, he was representing the Royal family at an official function in Denmark, not locked away in an asylum.

Third, these same private papers of William Gull are supposed to list Clarence as dying of syphilis in 1892. It would have been impossible for that statement to have come from the pen of Sir William Gull since he died in 1890.

"No Watson, I am afraid that the 'evidence' against the Prince is about as substantial as fairy dust."



"Well then," I asked, "what about the Royal Conspiracy?"

THE DOCTOR, THE ARM-CHAIR DETECTIVE AND THE CRIME OF THE CENTURY

"The Royal Conspiracy, The Masonic Conspiracy, conspiracy theories are very popular in literature, since they almost always involve 'higher-ups' concealing facts from both investigators and the public at large. In actual fact, however, conspiracies seldom hold together. The more people involved, the more likely someone will eventually confide in an outsider; and so the conspiracy fails and the 'brotherhood' falls."

As I listened to Holmes pontificate I grew a bit impatient. "Holmes, you are dismissing these conspiracy theories with vague generalizations. As you well know, some do succeed."

Holmes looked at me with a trifle annoyance. "Of course you are right. There are always exceptions. However, I have discarded the conspiracy notion on the basis that it just does not work here."

"Every so often a 'new' conspiracy is 'discovered' among various documents or by second, third, or fourth-hand recitation of oral stories. The documents are never brought forward for authentication and the original source of the story seems never to be traceable. Such theories without evidence, without independent corroboration must surely be dismissed."

"For example, let us examine one of the more popular theories; and since a number of conspiracy theories involve the same characters we will, at the same time, eliminate them as well. This particular saga first reached the public, in book form, in 1976."

"I believe you mean Jack the Ripper: The Final Solution by Stephen Knight."

Holmes nodded, "Knight was apparently taken in by a story from Joseph Sickert which he, in turn, claimed his father, Walter Sickert, the English painter, told him. The story goes something like this: Joseph Sickert is the son of Walter Sickert and Alice Margaret Crook. Alice Crook was born in 1885 as the result of a secret marriage between Annie Crook

and Prince Albert Victor Duke of Clarence (making Joseph Sickert Clarence's grandson and unacknowledged heir to the throne). Queen Victoria found out about this secret marriage in the early part of 1888 and had Annie Crook abducted.

"Once again the Queen's physician appears, this time in two roles. First, he performs brain surgery to remove her memory of the marriage, the Prince, etc. Then, depending upon the particular version of the story, she is either confined to an asylum for the remainder of her life, or she is released and drifts in and out of workhouses and asylums. In either case her eventual death is actually recorded in 1920, thirty two years after these events."

"Now for the conspiracy of murderers: Mary Kelly was entrusted with the care of the child, Alice Crook, and had the child with her when the abduction took place. She continued to raise the child with the help of four of her friends: Mary Ann Nichols, Elizabeth Stride, Catherine Eddowes, and Annie Chapman."

"Holmes, I see how these things are tying together since you have just named all five recognized victims of the Ripper. But, things seem to be getting more complicated. Instead of a single relatively simple conspiracy, we now have a whole series of conspiracies."

"First, a secret marriage and a conspiracy to keep it secret. Second, the marriage is found out, and then a conspiracy to break the marriage and remove the offending woman. Third, a child has resulted, so there is a conspiracy to raise the child in secret. I assume that this eventually leads to a conspiracy to blackmail the Royal family which, in turn, results in a conspiracy to murder the five women."

"There you begin to see the problem with conspiracy theories. You pile plot upon plot and you build a very fragile house of cards. Remove one piece and the whole

structure falls apart. So, let us see what a little breeze does to this particular 'house of cards.'

"First, let us look at the secret marriage and the child. Other than Sickert's story, there appears to be no real evidence either for or against the marriage of Annie Crook and Prince Albert. In such a case the 'evidence' would be summarily dismissed by any court in the land. However, for our purposes we will let this piece stand.

"We will also let stand that a child, Alice Margaret Crook, was born on the 18th of April, 1885. A birth certificate is registered, Annie Crook is listed as the mother and the father's name is left blank, leading us to believe that either the father was unknown or that he did not want his name known. Let us assume the latter, since this still does not rule out the secret marriage.

"Now we come to the 'abduction' and operation on Annie Crook, and here we begin to question the story. Why an abduction and an operation? The marriage would not have been legal if the Prince married without the consent of the Crown. If it were merely that the Prince was having a relationship with a commoner, well, people can be bribed. If not bribed then they can disappear. Even in so-called modern and civilized societies such things have been done to avoid scandal."

"But, Holmes, surely the Crown would never condone the murder of a woman loved by the Prince?"

"Murder need not be a part of the plan. She could have been taken to another part of the Empire, committed to an asylum away from London, any number of ways could have been used to obtain her silence. But, to allow her to remain in London where she was known by friends, where any change in her behavior would be noticed, where she had a child which could have been the focus of a Royal

scandal, such a thing would have been intolerable.

"As for the Crown not stooping to murder: why allow five brutal murders and mutilations, when one or possibly two would have served the same purpose?"

"After the supposed abduction of Annie Crook, Mary Kelly was supposed to have been caring for the child in secret. Why then, was the child's name never changed? Why did Kelly remain in London where she was known and where she knew her life was in danger?"

"Simple logic would have dictated that she flee London and raise the child as her own, preferably her own name would be changed as well. If blackmail were a motive, it can be accomplished as well from a distance."

"I say, this hypothesis seems to raise more questions than it answers."

"So it does. However, our story does not end yet. According to this thesis Jack the Ripper was not one, but three men, beginning with the Queen's physician William Gull. Gull, who proved himself so ably in the memory modification of Annie Crook, now becomes the primary butcher. He is driven around London in a Royal coach by coachman John Netley, and accompanied by a third person. That third person is either Walter Sickert or, in Joseph Sickert's original version, Inspector Anderson, himself, head of the CID⁽²⁾. During the day, John Netley would wander through Whitechapel tracking down the 'blackmailers' then, in the evening, Gull and his accomplice would lure the unsuspecting women into the carriage. There the two men would kill and mutilate each woman and then deposit the bodies where they would be later found.

"This piece of the puzzle presents so many problems that it is hard to know where to begin. The coach accounts for a supposed lack of blood where the bodies were found and the lack of screams

THE DOCTOR, THE ARM-CHAIR DETECTIVE AND THE CRIME OF THE CENTURY

during the murders. We must ask ourselves if a Royal coach could pass unnoticed through Whitechapel during the height of hysteria brought by the murders?



"Another question immediately arises. If it were a Royal coach why would the women enter? They were blackmailing the Royal family and would surely not voluntarily enter a Royal coach already occupied by two men. Oh, possibly the first victim would enter expecting some payment of the blackmail. But, after the first murder, they would have been foolish, indeed, to trust any representative of the Royal household.

"As to the supposed lack of blood: these were poor women without a permanent address. They lived each day as best they could and rented a bed each night when they had the funds. They wore virtually every piece of clothing they had. Post mortem examinations have shown that at least some of the women were asphyxiated, probably through strangulation, and laid upon the ground before their throats were cut. As you well know, when the heart ceases to function the blood no longer pulses from the wounds but drains slowly soaking the ground and clothes directly beneath the body. These same reports indicate the clothes were so blood soaked the ties had to be cut and the clothes peeled from the bodies. This is one indication the murders were committed where the bodies were found.

"Another argument against the carriage is that Annie Chapman's body was found in a backyard at 29 Hanbury Street, which was accessible only through a narrow

passage. Blood splattered against the fence and steps next to the body leave indisputable evidence that the mutilation occurred where the body was found.

"Much the same holds for Elizabeth Stride. Only here, it appears that the Ripper was interrupted by the arrival of Louis Diemschutz as he brought his pony and costermonger's cart into the courtyard behind the International Working Men's Educational Club. Diemschutz, at first, believed it was his drunken wife passed out in the courtyard. Instead, he found her still drinking inside the club. At that point he went back outside to remove, what he believed to be, a drunken woman from the premises. At that time he discovered that it was, indeed, the latest victim of the Ripper.

"Her throat was cut, but there were no mutilations found upon the body. The warmth of the body, the lack of mutilation, the blood still flowing from the wound, all indicate that the Ripper was interrupted and, in all likelihood, hiding behind the gate as the cart and pony were brought inside.

"Another theorist suggested that after the murder of Elizabeth Stride the Ripper would have needed a carriage to reach Mitre Square and have time to give his attentions to Catherine Eddowes. Upon examination this, also, does not hold up. Mitre Square is only a fifteen to twenty minute walk from Berner Street, where Stride was found.

"Diemschutz estimated his arrival at 1 AM. Constable Watkins reported he found Eddowes body at 1:44 AM. The Constable also stated his previous pass through the square was at 1:30 AM. As the doctor's testimony states a minimum of five minutes for the mutilation of Eddowes body, she and her assailant must have arrived at the square just after Constable Watkins left. In fact, witnesses saw a couple standing at the corner of Church Passage, leading into Mitre Square. The time was stated as just past 1:30.

"We see that the Ripper had ample time to walk the distance and still select a suitable victim.

"There is little doubt the Ripper was leaving the Square, at one end, as the Constable was entering at the other. The police reported that during the search of Mitre Square they found bloodied water still swirling in an outdoor sink, indicating the Ripper had stopped to rinse his hands as he left the square. If he were travelling in a carriage he would not have stopped. Also, there is an echo about the square and the noise of a carriage would have been noted by the Constable."

"Holmes, you have neatly dismissed the carriage and this particular theory, however, you have not mentioned the message found at Goulston Street with a piece of Catherine Eddowes' bloodied apron."

"I know what you are referring to and it is one piece of evidence that I would have liked to examine personally. However, Inspector Warren ordered it removed before a photograph could be taken, and so it is lost to us."

"But there is a transcription."

"Transcriptions," Holmes corrected. "There are two differing versions of what was written upon the wall. Constable Long, of the Metropolitan Police, first copied the message as follows:

'The Juwes are The men That
Will not be Blamed for nothing'

"He stated later that he did not notice the spelling of the word 'Juwes' until it was pointed out to him. Detective Halse, of the City Police, stated that the exact wording was:

'The Juwes are not
The men that
Will be
Blamed for nothing'

"Inspector Warren later claimed he believed the message was intended to misdirect the police and to stir anti-Semitic hatred. Based upon the events of 'Bloody Sunday,'⁽³⁾ a year earlier, and the current hysteria of the time he may have been quite correct. At this point it is impossible to say. As to the spelling of 'Juwes'; Stephen Knight said this particular word was not a misspelling of 'Jews' but refers to three apprentice Masons; Jubela, Jubelo and Jubelum, who, according to Masonic lore, murdered the Grand Master in charge of building Solomon's Temple. They were executed in a ritual fashion that, as proposed by Knight, closely resembles the Ripper murders.

"This message was found two days after the murders. It may or may not have been written by the Ripper; and if written by the Ripper, it may or may not have been meant to deceive the police. It may or may not have been transcribed correctly and may or may not have contained an error in spelling. All in all, it becomes a very fragile foundation for the whole Masonic conspiracy theory."

"But Holmes, the piece of Catherine Eddowes' apron was found at the scene."

"That does lead us to believe the message was probably written by the Ripper. But, with what motive? I doubt that he would try to incriminate himself. So we ask, was he trying to lay blame upon the Jews or the Masons? If the former, than Warren was correct in believing the message was intended to stir up hatred.

"If the latter, the Ripper could have felt betrayed by the organization. Possibly he was rejected by them, or felt he was wronged by one of their members. Such a betrayal, either real or imagined, could have lead him to attempt to throw suspicion on the entire organization.

"If the Ripper were an outcast Mason it would support Knight's assertion that the spelling was deliberate and that the resemblance of the murders to Masonic

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ritual was also deliberate. However, once again we begin to build a theory without a solid foundation."

"Holmes, when you have eliminated the conspiracies, as you have, what is left?"

"What is left, my dear Watson, is a solitary, deliberate, serial killer. A dangerous and cunning animal who kills for the sheer joy of killing. He is one of those invisible individuals who are seen and accepted as part of the environment, yet never to be approached. One who survives as best he can, yet keeps to himself. When he has time to brood on his station, on real or imagined wrongs done to him, he boils over and strikes out at society."

"That description would fit any of a quarter of a million people in the London area of the time," I said hopelessly.

"True, although even here we may narrow our field. There are a few things that we may safely assume about the Ripper. Several witnesses described men, or a single man, seen with some of the victims shortly before their bodies were found.

"There is a commonality of the descriptions that we may discuss."

"Holmes, I have seen enough of the literature that I believe I can describe the Ripper. If I remember properly he is described as a 'left-handed doctor, about 6 feet in height with a waxed moustache. When seen, he was wearing a top hat, black opera cape, and carrying a black instrument case'."

Holmes looked at me strangely, then, for the first time in many years, I heard him laugh. It was not the noiseless laugh, so peculiar to his nature. It was a loud, raucous laugh that shook Holmes until he nearly upset the table, next to his chair.

I felt my face redden as he laughed. I did not see anything so entertaining about the description. I was confident it was the same as I had read so often.

"Watson, you are a treasure. Please do not take offence, dear fellow. You did give an accurate accounting of the Ripper. That is the fictional Ripper, portrayed so often in the popular press. That description bares as much resemblance to the factual Ripper as I to Queen Victoria.

"The original concept of a 'mad doctor' dates from testimony given at the inquest of Catherine Eddowes. Dr. Brown stated the perpetrator 'possessed some anatomical knowledge.' When asked about the removal of the left kidney, he stated that the perpetrator would need a 'great deal of anatomical knowledge as to its position to remove it.' He was then asked if a slaughterer of animals would have such knowledge. To this, he answered, 'yes.'

"A brief examination of the post mortem report shows the cuts to be too deep and too numerous to require any real surgical skill. So, our 'doctor' becomes a butcher, a surgeon's assistant, or, possibly, someone with experience in hunting and dressing animals .

"Only one doctor ever gave any indication that he believed the Ripper was left-handed and none of the other examiners agreed with him. In fact, another look at the reports on Catherine Eddowes, shows the blade was travelling down and angled to the left, in the abdomen, indicating the handle was in the RIGHT hand.

"Now, if I may continue, the commonality of actual witness descriptions becomes; a man of between 25 and 40 years of age with sandy, or graying hair, a slight moustache, brown in colour (possibly waxed), between 5 feet 5 inches and 5 feet 9 inches in height, with 'a shabby, genteel look about him.' When seen he was wearing a cap, possibly a deerstalker, and a long coat of a dark colour.

"Such a description corresponds to a man who has seen better days, or, perhaps, came from a well-to-do family. He

preserves an outward air of self-respect, yet resents deeply the turn that life has dealt him. When he strikes out, it is at the very creatures that epitomize the lowest social levels. Perhaps, they also mirror a dominating woman, such as a mother, sister, or other relative, who physically and sexually abused our Ripper at an early age. The very bestial act he is performing is his way of revenging himself upon the image of this dominating force. At the same time, he says to society, 'look at me, I am someone. I cannot be ignored.'

"Holmes, the picture you have just painted is a dark one indeed. Such a person could appear reclusive, but otherwise normal, to those around him, as long as he feels that his alter ego, the Ripper, is the center of attention. When talk of the Ripper begins to disappear from the paper, and from conversations around him, he would be driven to kill again. Each kill would have to be more violent, more sensational, both for his personal satisfaction and to insure the appropriate response in the papers."

"You are quite correct. Each of the five mutilations became more violent, more offensive to society. After Mary Kelly there was little else he could do to a woman, or to society, as he may have viewed it."

"I have seen the photos of Mary Kelly, and even with my wartime experience, I find it inconceivable that one human being could do such a thing to another. Surely, he must have become a complete madman."

"It is quite possible that he did become completely mad, or that he committed one more act of rage against society—his own suicide."

"As one who has committed the ultimate atrocity against society and still was not satisfied he may have felt that his own death would be his last act of outrage, or revenge."

"I find that to be a very twisted bit of logic, Holmes."

"Or do you find it to be the logic of a twisted mind, Watson?"

"Many of your medical colleagues believe that suicide is an individual's ultimate act of aggression toward those around them, or towards society at large. Be that as it may, the Ripper certainly disappeared from Whitechapel after Mary Kelly was found."

"Whether he was confined to an asylum, committed suicide, or, even experienced a religious conversion (which to my mind is highly doubtful), the end result becomes the same; he is removed from society."

"This still leaves us with the original question; who was Jack the Ripper?"

"Ah, good old Watson. Right back to the point. We do have several individuals who may qualify as prime suspects. We will get to them in a moment, however, we can do a little more trimming of our list beginning with a popular suspect of the time, John Pizer."

"John Pizer," I questioned? "I don't recall his name."

"If you will be so good as to retrieve that leather-bound volume from the shelf. The black one, with the red 'R.' Ah, that's the one."

Holmes opened the dusty volume to just past its middle and read, "'Pizer, John, locally known as 'Leather Apron' due to the leather apron he continually wore as a bootmaker. He was an early suspect in the Whitechapel Murders. Questioned and released by the police. Pursued and won actions of libel against several papers.' There is more here, however, I can briefly recap this particular case

"Shortly before the murder of Polly Nichols, John Pizer was thrown out of a lodging house for abusing prostitutes, both verbally and physically. When this came

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to light the police sought him for questioning and were unable to find him. With the murder of Annie Chapman, and the discovery of a leather apron near her body, Pizer became a prime suspect.

"On September 10th, two days after the Chapman murder, the police tracked Pizer to #22 Mulberry Street. Upon his arrest he was able to provide witnesses to his actions on the dates of each murder. The police confirmed these and released him. Because of his treatment in the press, he pursued actions for libel, and won. Oh, the leather apron found at the scene belonged to John Richardson. His mother rented the ground floor flat at #29 Hanbury Street. She washed the apron the previous evening and had left it near where it was found."

Holmes began to close the book when his eye fell upon something and he reopened the volume, turning to the previous page.

"William Pigott, I had almost forgotten about him," Holmes murmured.

"Who, pray tell, is William Pigott?"

"Except for one thing, William Pigott would be the perfect suspect. He was seen in a pub at Gravesend with blood-stained clothing, had several recent wounds on his hands, greatly resembled 'Leather Apron' and the Ripper composite. He was arrested on the same day as 'Leather Apron' and was unable to account for his activities at the time of the murders."

"What rules him out as the Ripper?"

"During the police questioning, Piggott became increasingly less coherent. A Doctor was summoned and pronounced him insane. Piggott was immediately confined to an asylum at Bow. So, he was safely locked away during the last three Ripper murders."

"Holmes, I seem to remember a story that some poor wretch confessed to the murders just before he was hung."

"Actually Watson, there have been several 'confessions' over the years. The one you've just called to mind would be Dr. Thomas Neil Cream. The story is; while he was standing on the gallows he cried, 'I am Jack the . . .,' then the trap dropped.

"On the face of it, such a 'dying confession' could have closed the case. But, it was not to be. His claim was looked into and found to be fraudulent. During the entire year of 1888 Dr. Cream was serving out a life term in Iolat Prison, in the State of Illinois. His solicitor eventually secured his release in the summer of 1891. He did not even arrive in England until September of 1891."

"Why on earth would he confess to these atrocities?"

"It was his last gambit. He was about to be hung and believed if he confessed to the unsolved crimes the Government would have to grant him a stay of execution while they investigated his claim. Unfortunately, for him, his timing was wrong."

"You said there had been several confessions."

"Yes, in cases of certain spectacular crimes, there are people that confess in order to become the center of attention, for a while. There are also people that become so obsessed with the crime, they come to believe that they, themselves, are the culprit. One case in point is Walter Sickert."

"The same Walter Sickert who was named as part of the Royal Conspiracy?"

"The very same. According to Stephen Knight, in Sickert's later years he began to sit in darkened rooms staring at some of his paintings and claiming that the truth to the Ripper was hidden within them. He was also said to wander through Whitechapel, in hat and long

coat, reenacting the murders, eventually claiming he was the Ripper.

"Knight used this to support his contention that Sickert was part of the conspiracy and participated in the murders. Yet, after rejecting the conspiracy, we are left with a prime example of a person that has become deluded by his own obsession with solving the Ripper's secret.

"With very little investigation, we find that Sickert was interested in the Ripper for some time. He even quoted a story told to him by his landlady. Her claim was that she believed the previous tenant was the Ripper. I have no doubt such stories were common, at the time, and were probably used to extract a higher rent on less than desirable properties.

"If the statements about Sickert are true, there is another, more probable, explanation. As Sickert heard various stories about the Ripper, he may have actually incorporated parts of these stories into his work. As he became more obsessed with the Ripper, in his later years, he came to believe that the truth could be found by putting together these pieces. Viewing the clues hidden in his own works, and reenacting the crimes, would help him in solving the riddle.

"All this is perfectly normal, until you add an obsessive personality. He becomes convinced that only he holds all the clues. His obsession with the puzzle grows as he tries to make the pieces fit. He even tries to follow the Ripper's thought process until he finally begins to believe he is the Ripper."

"Holmes, I am beginning to wonder if there is anyone who has not been suspected of being the Ripper."

"So it seems. With every new article or book at least three or four new 'suspects' emerge. We could be here for the next fortnight discussing each of them. While I enjoy your company, Watson, I believe that we can now distill our list to just

four individuals: Doctor D'onston, Montague John Druitt, Aaron Kosminski, and Michael Ostrog."

"I recognize the name of Druitt, but the others are unfamiliar to me."

"I should be surprised if you did not recognize the name of Druitt. Montague John Druitt's family was well known in your profession. His father was a surgeon in Dorset, his uncle was quite well-known as a doctor, and his cousin was a doctor with a surgery in the area of the Ripper murders.

"As to Dr. D'onston; he was a journalist, with medical training. He practiced 'Black Magic' and wrote a series of articles in which he claimed to know the identity of the Ripper and his motives.

"The motive for the murders was, according to D'onston, to obtain body parts for use in 'Black Magic' rites. He went into considerable detail, regarding these rites, including how to render human fat to make ritual candles. His apparent knowledge of the crimes and rituals was enough to convince some of his acquaintances, including his mistress, that he was Jack the Ripper. He even had a small box containing 'blood-soaked' ties. This, he claimed, belonged to the Ripper. Sometime after the last Ripper murder, D'onston experienced a religious conversion and spent his remaining years writing treatise on the gospels."

"But, Holmes, if the motive for the murders was to obtain items for ritual use, wouldn't they have to be obtained in a ritual manner? Unless I am wrong, that would mean taking the victim to a place of privacy, that has been prepared for such a use."

"Agreed. Ritual sacrifice has always been very exacting as to circumstances, including location and method, lest the product of the sacrifice become tainted and unfit for its destined use. This, and D'onston's age disqualify him as a suspect."

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"His age?"

"D'onston was 58 at the time of the murders, with a sizeable moustache. It would be difficult to believe that he could be taken for a man of between 25 and 40, with a slight moustache.

"What links Druitt, Kosminski and Ostrog to the Whitechapel murders is found in a document commonly referred to as 'the Macnaghton papers.'

"Sir Melville Macnaghton joined Scotland Yard as an assistant chief constable in 1889, several months after the last Ripper murder. He remained with the Yard until 1903, when he was appointed to head the CID. While at the Yard he had the opportunity to review all of the records pertaining to the case. It is his report on the matter (written in 1894) that states, for the first time, 'Now, the Whitechapel murderer had 5 victims — & five victims only...'

"This statement, and much of the report, was intended to refute an article appearing in "The Sun" linking a Thomas Cutbush with the Whitechapel murders. It seems that Cutbush was arrested in 1891 for stabbing young girls in the posterior. In comparison to the Ripper, he was a harmless, if painful, lunatic.

"What is of interest, in these papers, is that Macnaghton names three suspects, anyone of whom, he claims, would have been more likely than Cutbush to have committed the crimes. The three suspects he lists are: 1) Montague John Druitt, 2) Aaron Kosminski, and 3) Michael Ostrog. There is much that is known about Druitt, little that is known of Kosminski, and virtually nothing that is known about Ostrog.

"We have already mentioned something of Druitt's male relatives, however, it is his mother who is of special interest. She was 27 years of age when Montague was born, in 1857, some 10 years younger than her husband. Sometime after her

husband's death, in September of 1885, she was confined to a private mental home in Chiswick, suffering from 'melancholia' and 'brain disease.' She eventually died in the home on the 15th of December, 1890.

"Druitt, himself, was born as the second of seven children. While at school, Druitt was quite popular and participated in team sports, debates, et cetera, not the type of socially reclusive personality we would expect of the Ripper.

"During his adult life, his relations with his family seemed to become somewhat tenuous. In his chosen career he was an undistinguished, and unsuccessful, barrister. He turned to teaching, at a boy's school in Blackheath, to provide an income while maintaining an office near Whitechapel. Obviously, he hoped that teaching would be only a temporary measure and Law would prove to be his true calling.

"His position did prove to be temporary, although not by his choosing. He was released from employment at Blackheath for undisclosed reasons. Conjecture is that he may have had improper relations with some of the students. Although, it is equally possible his behavior had become erratic through inheritance of his mother's insanity.

"After his dismissal, and with his failing practice, he did become more reclusive, and his whereabouts, during the crimes, becomes difficult to trace. In the early part of December, 1888, Montague John Druitt drowned himself in the Thames. Among effects found in his room was a note, addressed to his brother, William."

Holmes again opened the book and after turning a few pages, he stopped.

"Ah, here it is. Let me quote the note itself: 'Since Friday I felt I was going to be like mother and the best thing for me is to die.'

"Here, we have direct evidence Druitt suffered from bouts of 'melancholia.' Whether this insanity also asserted itself in bouts of maniacal rage, resulting in the Whitechapel murders, is pure speculation at this point.

"Members of the police were convinced that Druitt was the Ripper. When his body was found, on the 31st of December, they called off the extra patrols of the district."

"If there were no more murders after his death, and the police were convinced, then he must have been the Ripper."

Holmes slowly shook his head, "Unless there is more damning evidence somewhere, all we have is circumstantial evidence that does not rule out Montague John Druitt, yet, we could hardly obtain a conviction on its basis.

"Curiously, a statement in Inspector Anderson's memoirs may be interpreted thus. Anderson claimed that he could name the Ripper but '. . .it would serve no public good. . .' It is just possible Anderson withheld the name of the Ripper to protect Druitt's family.

"There is another interesting bit of speculation. Donald Rumbelow, a detective with the City of London Police, and author of 'Jack the Ripper: The Complete Casebook,' is in possession of a knife that may have been used in the murders. It is a post mortem knife, with a blade about 10 inches in length. It is said the knife was one of a pair, found in a box, wrapped in a 'blood-soaked blue silk.' The box and the knives were in the possession of Hugh Pollard, scientific advisor to Scotland Yard. This leads to the speculation that the knives were found among the effects of one of the suspects.

"Such a knife would match the details of the post mortem examinations. If it were found among Druitt's effects, it would substantially explain why the police were convinced the Ripper was dead. Once

again, this is in the realm of pure speculation."

"You named three suspects, in the Macnaghton papers. Surely, the other two can be ruled out?"

"Of the remaining two, Michael Ostrog is the most frustrating. Outside of Macnaghton's reference, nothing seems to exist of the man. So, I will quote Macnaghton's statement: '...Michael Ostrog, a Russian doctor, and a convict, who was subsequently detained in a lunatic asylum as a homicidal maniac. This man's antecedents were of the worst possible type, and his whereabouts at the time of the murders could never be ascertained.'"

"You're saying this is all that exists of the man? There must be something regarding his description and his crimes."

"Quite possibly. However, I have found nothing, other than a pathetic attempt to make him a pawn of the Russian Secret Police, and another attempt to link him to one or two Russian doctors who can be traced.

"This brings us to our final suspect, Aaron Kosminski. Recent findings have made him our primary suspect.

"Let me begin by once again quoting Macnaghton: '. . .Kosminski — a Polish Jew — & resident in Whitechapel. This man became insane owing to many years indulgence in solitary vices. He had a great hatred of women, specially of the prostitute class, & had strong homicidal tendencies: he was removed to a lunatic asylum about March 1889. There were many circumstances connected with this man which made him a strong 'suspect'."

"Holmes, you mentioned new evidence regarding this man."

"Yes, I did. As a matter of fact, it brings to mind a little monograph I have been contemplating, 'The Study of

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Marginalia with Regard to its use in the Detection of Crime'.

"Marginalia, as you should know, refers to the personal notes one makes in the margins of a printed page. When you know the author of the notes, and place them in the context of the associated text, they are, often, quite revealing.

"Our case in point is a copy of Inspector Anderson's memoirs. Sir Robert Anderson, as you remember, was head of the CID, and he placed Chief Inspector Donald Swanson in charge of the Whitechapel investigation.

"It is in Inspector Swanson's personal copy of the memoirs that we find the most damning evidence, to date. In his book, Anderson described an encounter between an 'eyewitness' and a suspect. The witness had given police such a vivid description of a man seen with one of the victims, that he was taken to a 'safe house' to identify the suspect. This he did without hesitation. However, when asked if he would give evidence in court, he refused. It is possible he feared the police could not obtain a conviction and he, himself, would become a victim.

"Inspector Anderson does not name either the witness or the suspect in his book. In the marginalia of Swanson's copy, however, we find notes regarding the safe house and how the suspect was taken there. We also find a note stating, 'Kosminski was the suspect.'"

"Finally, an eyewitness identifies the Ripper. If I remember Macnaghton's statement correctly, the authorities were able to confine Kosminski to an asylum, even if they could not bring him to trial."

"It is very tempting to stop here and say that we have the solution. But, there is still a problem. Martin Fido, author of 'The Crimes, Detection and Death of Jack the Ripper,' found the records of an Aaron Kosminski from Whitechapel. They stated Kosminski was confined two years after the Whitechapel murders and lived

some thirty years in confinement as a harmless lunatic, not a violent sociopath as described by Macnaghton and Anderson.

"Fido does continue with his research and says there was another person from Whitechapel, called David Cohen, who was confined in March of 1889, was a violent maniac, and became increasingly violent before he died two years later. It is Martin Fido's contention that the Aaron Kosminski, referred to by Macnaghton and Sawnsen, was confined as David Cohen to hide his identity. This would be similar to the Americans confining someone under the name John Doe or John Smith."

"So Holmes, we are still left with three suspects, anyone of whom could be the Ripper and none of whom can be completely ruled out."

"So it stands. Remember, there is a possibility the real Ripper is not even on our list.

"But, we may still have hope of solving this case. With the renewed public interest in the Ripper, every shred of evidence is being re-evaluated. Modern scientific methods are being used to analyze and comprehend all of the available facts. And, Watson, we always have the possibility of new evidence being discovered. Scotland Yard Criminologist, William Waddel, claims there is such evidence relating to Druiitt's whereabouts during the crimes. If this proves out then Druiitt will be eliminated from our list.

"Without such evidence 'in hand' we cannot trim our list any further. I am afraid that Donald Rumbelow sums up the whole affair when he says that the only thing we now know for sure is that Jack the Ripper is dead."

* * *

FOOTNOTES

1.)The Sign of the Four

2.) CID — Criminal Investigations Department

At the time of the Ripper murders, this department was under the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, yet had some autonomy and reported directly to the Home Secretary.

3.) Bloody Sunday 13th of November 1887. Under pressure from shopkeepers and residents of the area, Chief Inspector Warren, of the Metropolitan Police, announced that Trafalgar Square would be cleared of vagrants. The 'vagrants' referred to were the unemployed and homeless, who had been 'camping out' at the Square during the two years previous.

The announcement resulted in numerous protests, which culminated in a march on the Square. Well over four thousand constables confronted the mob. Warren was publicly criticized, and officially praised, for his actions.

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* * * * *

A*G*O*N*I*E*S

ATTENTION: Mr. Neville St. Clair
New method of surgery can guarantee you
no facial deformities, whatsoever.

—Jack D. Ripper

* * *

ATTENTION LADIES & GENTLEMEN:

Sir A.C. Doyle will need three to five
volunteers for a seance on a reportedly
haunted ship located off the coast. Due
to Prohibition, no "spirits" allowed within
U.S. waters.

* * *

MADAM ZORA knows all, sees all, and
can help you contacting the dead. Proven
success in hundreds of cases. Send two
dollars for list of spirited references.

* * *

TO THE WOMAN:

I can penetrate your disguise. I suggest
that you change your disguise today, so
as to confound the minions of Moriarty.

—Jack

* * *

TO JAMES STANGER, Sr.:

All right, we give up. We promise not to
chase any more Scowrers, since no one
we've recruited has been as successful as
Birdy Edwards.

—The Confused Pinkerton agents

* * *

TO THE LADIES OF WHITECHAPEL:

The British Medical Society has revoked
my license. They say I am more of a
butcher than a Doctor. Perhaps the
Americans will appreciate my innovative
style. Bye for now.

—Ole Jack

* * * * *

THE RUNNING OF THE SILVER BLAZE

THE THIRD ANNUAL RUNNING OF THE SILVER BLAZE

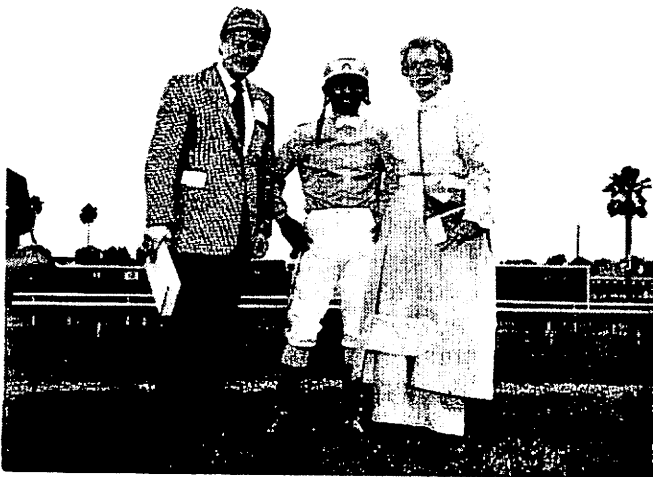
by
Ron White

Saturday, October 14, 1989; time, once again, for the running of The Silver Blaze. Sherlockians convened at Bay Meadows' club house to partake of a tempting buffet luncheon and to test various systems of detecting winning horses.

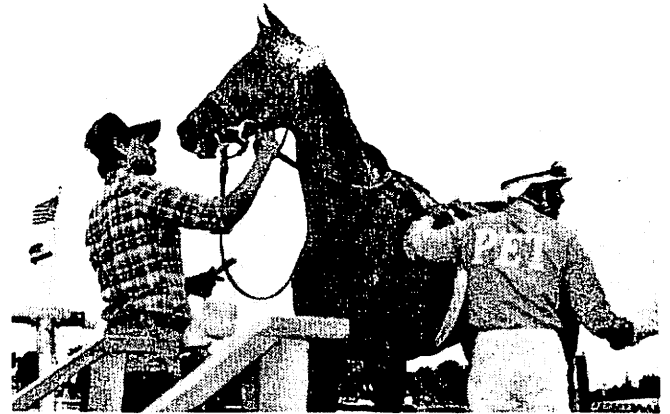
Once again, the buffet contained a wealth of selections, all quite tempting. As we filled our plates and returned to the tables, the accompanying conversations ranged from the latest Sherlockian book offerings to the recent discovery of a possible photograph of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. (The investigation of this, and accompanying photographs, will be detailed in a future paper entitled "The Adventure of the Glass Plate Negatives.")

The second race was named "Silver Blaze. So, we quickly settled into our techniques of detecting winners.

The first year I had bet on "long shots" only to find out why they were long shots. Last year I picked the four most Sherlockian names and bet on all four to show. Three out of the four came in first, second and third. I broke even on the bets.



*Bodymaster Bob Steele and Shirley Dickensheet
present award to jockey Tony Castanon.*



*Trainer, Bruce Jackson and jockey Tony Castanon
with the winner, BELIEVE IN DREAMS*

This year I believed I had the system down pat. Once again, I watched people pouring over the tout sheets, watching the odds change on the board, and I believe I even saw one person with an I-ching coin trying to divine the winners. Smugly, I placed all that aside and looked for the most Sherlockian names.

Last year's race produced a wealth of possible Sherlockian designations. This year's crop of names was not so obvious. The best choices seemed to be; No. 3 Ihaveaneedtospeed (Holmes' cocaine addiction?), No. 5 Believe in Dreams (must be Doyle's spiritualism, surely not the Sherlockian world.), and No. 9 Ode to Joy (Holmes love of classical music.) No. 10 Gypsy Bear (Holmes, during the hiatus?) was scratched.

So, I had my selections, numbers 3, 5, and 9 to win, place and show on each. At the betting window the attendant called it "three horses, across the board." At two dollars for each horse and position the bet cost a total of \$18.00.

During the race I had a unique vantage point, standing next to the track photographer at the finish line. I watched the position board as the horses began to round the turn. positions one and two were alternating between 3 and 5, and 5 and 3. Third position was being held by number 8 with number 9 coming up on the inside (come on, No. 9). Coming out of the turn, No. 3 was in first position followed by No. 5. 7, 8 and

9 bunched together in third position. Going into the stretch No. 5 takes a lead over No.3. No. 7 begins to fade while 8 and 9 battle for third.

At the finish, No. 5 Believe In Dreams won with No. 3 Ihaveaneedtospeed a close second. No. 8 Saros Eros held onto third while being challenged by No. 9 Ode to Joy. Oh well, I collected on two of the three horses.

After shooting the pictures in the Winners Circle, I trotted over to the betting windows to see how I did. No. 5 paid on all three positions and No. 3 paid on place and show giving me a grand total of \$50.00 and some change. Maybe not the big winner of the day but I was quite happy.

Back at the luncheon tables I checked to see how others had fared with the race. It seems that with our group No. 5 and No. 3 were the two favorites producing a number of winners and another successful event.

* * * * *



QUAKE HITS BAKER STREET HOLMES SHAKEN

On the 17th of October, 1989, the earthquake that rocked the San Francisco Bay Area also shook that famed Baker Street sitting room which is now located atop the Holiday Inn at 480 Sutter Street in San Francisco.

Apparently, the occupant of that famous room had deduced the probability of such an event, as there was very little damage which could be perceived. One notable exception was a wax bust, believed to be the work of Monsieur Oscar Meunier, of Grenoble. The bust was found face down upon the floor. Its nasal structure had been reshaped, as if its owner had spent too many years as a pugilist.

A rather tall, thickly moustached, individual, was seen about the room shortly after the event. He claimed the bust had withstood the earthquake. He went on to say that an instant before the bust fell he heard what could only be described as a hiss and pop. I must say that it was pure speculation when he stated the cause of the bust's fall to be "an impact from a projectile fired by a high powered air-gun." I must remain skeptical that such a thing even exists.

I remain all the more skeptical as this person declined to identify himself for the record. All that he would claim was that he was a doctor and part-time writer, and that he was quite familiar with such things as air-guns.

At this point he gazed about the room, nodding with apparent satisfaction. I followed his gaze briefly to the venerable gasogene and then to the chemical table. I then turned to ask another question and found that he had quietly vanished. A cursory examination of the hall revealed no hint of his departure. Who, or what, he was remains a mystery.

* * * * *

SHERLOCKIANA

A Forger Is Back At Work

Konrad Kujau, who was convicted of forging Adolf Hitler's diaries, was released from prison in June of 1988. He now runs an art gallery in Stuttgart, West Germany. Appropriately, the name he has given to the establishment is "Forgeries Gallery."

He claims to be able to paint in the style of numerous artist including Rembrandt, Van Gough and Picasso. In this case, the paintings are done to order. A customer brings a photo into the store and asks for a painting done in the style of a particular artist. Konrad Kujau willingly obliges for a suitable fee, of course.

According to one source, his paintings are nearly perfect. If it were not for one minor item, they could be sold as originals. The little defect is that each painting bares two signatures, that of the artist he is imitating and Konrad Kujau's own autograph.

In addition to what has been reported as a profitable (and legal) venture, he is also retained as a consultant by the police. He gives lectures on how to spot a forgery and has been employed to give expert testimony in a couple of cases.

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Rupert Books

Rupert Books has recently released their tenth catalogue. This extensive offering contains 571 Sherlockian and Doyleian publications including many first editions and limited offerings.

Selections are arranged by author beginning with Pasquale Accardo's "Diagnosis & Detection" and continuing through Isaac Asimov's "Sherlock Holmes through Time And Space," Dorothy L. Sayers' "Unpopular Opinions," Mark Twain's "A Double Barrelled Detective Story" (a 1902 1st edition), and concluding with E. M. Zeisler's "Baker Street Cronology."

Early editions of the Sherlock Holmes are, of course, also included, as well as other publications by A.C.D. Among those listed are "The Poems of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle," "The Truth of Spiritualism," and "The Mystery of Joan of Arc."

There are far too many offerings in this catalogue to list even a few more of the special interest items. To receive a copy write to:

Rupert Books
59 Stonefield
Bar Hill, Cambridge CB3 8TE

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Bargain Books

A couple of interesting items were recently found on the bargain tables at B Dalton. The first was Michael Hardwick's The Revenge of the Hound, priced at \$2.98 in hardcover.

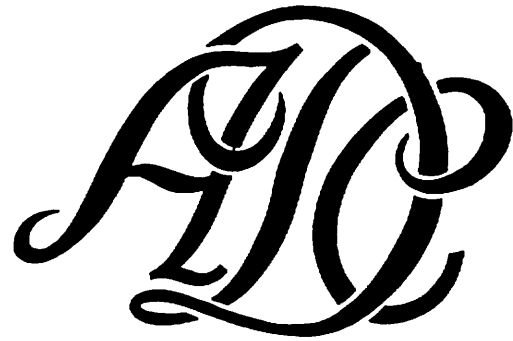
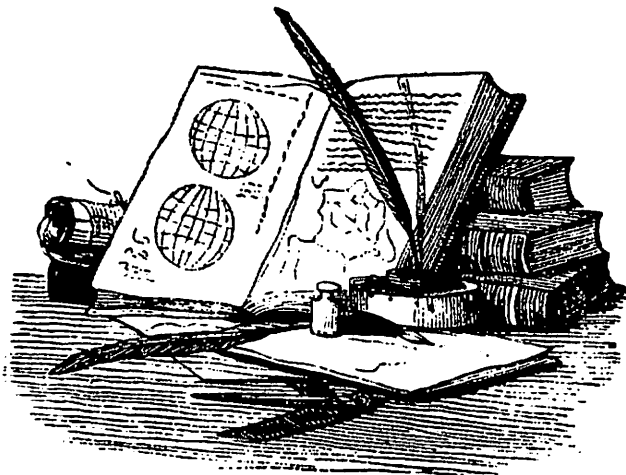
A second volume is not exactly Sherlockian but is of considerable interest. SOLVED! features articles and comments by various mystery writers regarding real-life crimes and mysteries. Among the writers listed are Erle Stanley Gardner, Damon Runyon, Ellery Queen and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Doyle's commentary is regarding "The Case of Mr. George Edalji." His efforts resulted in Mr. Edalji's release and a pardon but Mr. Edalji was never exonerated.

The article, and the entire book, make interesting reading. Priced at \$3.98, in hardcover, it is well worth looking for.

The best bargain may well be the one recently found at Price Club. The Annotated Sherlock Holmes by William S. Baring-Gould was priced at \$15.99. Originally a two volume set, this has been reprinted under a single cover with slip-case. This edition was originally priced at \$55.00.

* * *



The Arthur Conan Doyle Society

May 22, 1989 marked the 130th anniversary of the birth of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. This date also marked the official founding of The Arthur Conan Doyle Society.

The goal of this organization is to preserve and perpetuate the works of Doyle and to bring to the public a recognition of the talents and versatility of the man himself. Their object is not to become another Sherlockian society, but, to concentrate on the, relatively, forgotten aspects of Doyle and to prevent his numerous works from being lost to the reading public.

The current cost of membership to U.S. addresses is \$25.00 (U.S.), including two issues of the journal, ACD, and The Parish Magazine, the society newsletter, as issued.

As of June 1, 1990, membership costs will be \$24.00 (U.S.) with surface postage rates, or \$34.00 (U.S.) with air mail postage rates.

Copies of the first journal, ACD, are available through Rupert Books and information regarding membership may be obtained by writing to:

Christopher Roden
'Grasmere', 35 Penfold Way
Dodleston, Chester, CH4 9ML
England

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